

**Whereas**, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize an outstanding young Missouri citizen who has distinguished herself as a leader of her peers; and

**Whereas**, Catherine Croci, an eighth grade student at St. Martin de Porres School in Hazelwood, Missouri, placed 24 out of 54 contestants in the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriotic Pen essay contest competition held in February of 2003 in Washington, D.C.; and

**Whereas**, Catherine Croci's composition entitled "My Pledge to America" was selected from the 137 VFW posts in Missouri to win at the state competition in Jefferson City on February 8, 2003; and

**Whereas**, "My Pledge to America" is a touching essay in which Catherine Croci describes the small ways that she can be patriotic which include voting, saluting the American flag, standing tall and singing aloud when the national anthem is played, and thanking veterans for their service to this country; and

**Whereas**, Catherine Croci has been awarded two commemorative plaques and a monetary prize of \$590 for her essay, which also won at the district level; and

**Whereas**, Catherine Croci questioned her skill as a writer but quickly put her worries aside as she penned a terrific essay that allowed her to express the strong feelings she has for her country and the seriousness of her pledge to America; and

**Whereas**, Catherine Croci has achieved all of this and more with the love and admiration of her proud parents, Carl and Susan Croci:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Catherine Croci at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction, and in wishing her only the very best of success in all her future endeavors; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Catherine Croci, as a mark of our esteem for her.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Clint Zweifel  
District No. 78

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Representative Bruce Darrough  
District No. 75

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2221, adopted April 28, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker